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From:

<GeoffreySeaNYC@aol.com>

To: Date: <mxb6@nrc.gov>
2/14/05 8:47AM

Subject:

Piketon Works

Matt Blevins, NRC

Dear Matt,

The locations I provided are all correct as near as the accuracy of my mapmaking ability allows.

The "mistake" I made was in reproducing a historic confusion about The Piketon Works. These "parallel walls of earth" were classically described by Atwater in 1820 and then again by Squier and Davis in 1848. Starting with Squier and Davis and including everyone who has written about these works since, there has been the assumption that they were describing the same site.

I have now determined, backed by expert opinion, that they were actually describing different sites. The confusion has been magnified by the fact that the one site is on DOE land, hence "off limits," while the other location is recognized but not disclosed by the State Historic Protection Office. In other words, there are two different sets of "parallel walls of earth"--the one described by Atwater that is on the DOE riverfront property as I described it, and the other set which is north of the A-Plant site that was described by Squier and Davis. Again, I'm the first to clarify the distinction, and I have written up a short paper for publication.

Technically, only the Squier and Davis site is listed on the National Register. However, because these two sites were historically confused, it could be argued that the term "Piketon Works" applies to both. In any case, the Atwater site certainly "qualifies" for listing on the register, under the meaning of the National Historic Protection Act, even though the SHPO has not yet officially designated it. (I have not even had a chance to inform the SHPO about this yet.)

One factor that generated the confusion is that Atwater's Plate XI, which I reproduce in my testimony, had its compass marker way off. The top of the plate, rather than representing north, is actually southwest. This threw off just about everyone who went looking for those walls.

When I told Bill Murphee of DOE about those walls, he offered to go look at them with me. I think that what needs to happen, given that this site has not been documented since 1820, is that Mr. Murphy from DOE, Dave Snyder from the SHPO, you or some representative of NRC, someone representing USEC, a Hopewell archaeologist or two, and I take a little field trip down there, so all parties know exactly what is there.

Please keep me informed about your implementation of the 106 review.

Sincerely,

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